

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 15-21 are pending in the present application, claims 13 and 14 being canceled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of original claim 13. New claim 21 has been added and incorporates the features of cancelled claim 13 in independent form. Support for the new claim is found throughout the specification, e.g., in original claim 13 and page 3, lines 7-27. No new matter is added by the amendments.

A supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and Form 1449 is being filed with the present Reply.

35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)

Claims 1-10, 12, and 14-20 have been rejected as allegedly anticipated by Vacanti et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,171,610 B1). The Office Action indicates that claims 11 and 13 are objected to. Applicants do not agree with the rejection. However, to expedite prosecution, applicants have amended claim 1 incorporating the features of Claim 13. New claim 22 corresponds to claim 11, rewritten in independent form. All of the remaining claims depend from claim 1, which applicants understand to be allowable as amended. Therefore, applicants believe that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) be withdrawn.

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Bonassar

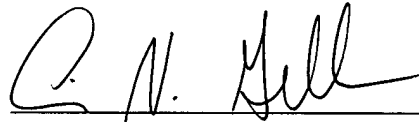
CONCLUSION

All of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would expedite matters, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account number 06-1050, referencing attorney docket number 07917-136001.

Respectfully submitted,

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